UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/658
S/1998/1056
10 November 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 62, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106 and 108
QUESTION OF CYPRUS
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN
ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 10 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 9 November 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 9 November 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statements made by the Greek Cypriot representative to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on 13, 19, 22 and 27 October 1998, under agenda items 101, "Crime prevention and criminal justice", 102, "International drug control", 103, "Advancement of women", 104, "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women", 106, "Promotion and protection of the rights of children" and 108. "Elimination of Racism and racial discrimination", respectively. These statements contain allegations that grossly distort the realities of Cyprus and demonstrate yet again that the Greek Cypriot side is more interested in political posturing than in assisting in efforts to build confidence between the two sides. Since the Turkish Cypriot side is being denied its right of say in the said Committee, I am compelled to respond to these allegations in writing.

The Greek Cypriot representative, in a vain attempt to absolve the Greek Cypriot side from the responsibility of creating and perpetuating the conflict in the island, once again depicts Northern Cyprus as "occupied areas". I wish to remind the Greek Cypriot representative that the only occupation in Cyprus is the 35-year-old usurpation and continued occupation by the Greek Cypriot side of the seat of government of the bi-national Republic of Cyprus established under the 1960 Treaties.

Much to the contrary of the impression being given by the Greek Cypriot representative, the Cyprus question has not come about as a result of the Turkish intervention of 1974, which was fully legal and legitimate under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, but by the Greek Cypriot conspiracy and overt acts of violence during the period 1963-1974 aimed at converting the bi-national partnership state of Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot entity. This is admitted by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafkos Clerides, in his memoirs, entitled Cyprus: My Deposition, in the following words: "... the Greek Cypriot preoccupation was that Cyprus should be a Greek Cypriot state, with a protected Turkish Cypriot minority" (vol. 3, p. 105).

It is not surprising that the Greek Cypriot representative refers to a report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/53/18) that contains observations based on the one-sided information provided by the Greek Cypriot side through the fourteenth periodic report it has submitted in the name of "Cyprus" (document CERD/C/299/Add.19). Our views on that report have been communicated to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/53/11) and need not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that the Greek Cypriot representative's complaints over his side's "inability" to implement international instruments is hypocrisy par excellence since the historical record shows clearly that during the period 1963-1974, even the most fundamental rights of the Turkish Cypriot people, including their right to life, liberty and security, were grossly and systematically violated. The periodic reports of the Secretary-General and of the international press provide ample graphic evidence of a systematic campaign

of ethnic cleansing directed against the Turkish Cypriot people during that period.

Concerning the so-called "enclaved" Greek Cypriots, it is noteworthy that the term "enclaves" was first used in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General to describe the areas into which Turkish Cypriots had been forced by the Greek Cypriot side during the period 1963-1974. It should be recalled that the Secretary-General at the time had described the living conditions in these enclaves as a "veritable siege" (see S/5950 of 10 September 1964). The Greek Cypriot propaganda machine has been trying to utilize that term with a view to exploiting the presence of several hundred Greek Cypriots living in Northern Cyprus. The fact is that there have been no "enclaved" people in Cyprus since the liberation of the Turkish Cypriots by Turkey in 1974.

As regards allegations of criminal activity, reports by authoritative sources and international press coverage of the area leaves no room for doubt as to which part of Cyprus serves as a centre for money laundering, drug trafficking, arms smuggling and other illicit activity. In this context, the 1998 International Narcotic Control Strategy report entitled "Money laundering and financial crimes: country reports", released by the United States State Department, is particularly noteworthy.

In the face of the overwhelming evidence of rampant illegality in South Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot administration would do well to concentrate its efforts on cleaning its own house rather than directing false accusations at others. Relevant in this context are the widespread cases of torture and police brutality by the Greek Cypriot police, which have called into question the whole criminal justice system in the South. A case in point is the public inquiry undertaken by Mr. Alecos Markides, the Greek Cypriot Attorney-General, in the wake of television footage depicting police violence against Nigerian refugees who have been detained in South Cyprus since June 1998. The Greek Cypriot daily Cyprus Mail of 28 October 1998 reported that "television footage of the scene showed members of MMAD (rapid reaction force) dressed in riot-gear viciously kicking, stomping and clubbing the African men, after using tear-gas on them to quell a cell-block riot". Given the gravity of the situation, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has assigned lawyer Hugh Massey to the case, who has stated that the Greek Cypriot administration is violating international law by denying schooling and recreation to children of the African refugees in police detention, and is not conforming to international human rights standards governing detention. "Certainly, the standards of detention of the juveniles is not in accordance with international standards - the Beijing rules regarding juveniles and the Convention on the Rights of the Child", Mr. Massey said. He further noted that "some of the applicable standards of international law are not being adhered to ... They are not allowed freedom of movement. Visits have been restricted ... I have also received a report that even a lawyer who wanted to visit was also denied access. If that report is true, it is unacceptable". (Cyprus Mail, 4 November 1998). Meanwhile, Amnesty International is also looking into the matter, and has been reported that the Greek Cypriot violation of human rights will be included in Amnesty International's next report (Greek Cypriot daily Haravgi, 4 November 1998).

When judged against this background of past and current violations of human rights by the Greek Cypriot administration, the unfounded allegations levelled by the Greek Cypriot side at international forums clearly appear as an attempt to gloss over their own criminal record in this respect. If the Greek Cypriot side is genuinely interested in reconciliation it should abate its campaign of international propaganda aimed at defaming Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, for unless that happens there will be no room for promoting confidence between the two states on the island.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus